

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. SCHROEDER addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

PRESERVING AND PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise for two purposes tonight, first, in response to the last gentleman who spoke.

I think it is important the House note that it was the Republican Congress that led the way to roll back the unfair 1993 tax on senior citizens' Social Security, and it is the same Republican-held Congress that has also called for increases in income eligibility for senior citizens who now are capped at \$11,380 a year. Under the Republican legislation, they will be able to make up to \$30,000 a year without deductions from Social Security.

We will work in a bipartisan fashion to make sure we preserve and protect Social Security and Medicare. What we will do with Medicare is to make sure, through our preservation task force, to come up with options to make sure we eliminate the fraud, abuse, and waste which exists in the system. That is the core of the problem.

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I also rise tonight, Mr. Speaker, to pay tribute to a Norristown community leader from my district, Frances Joyner, someone who gave so much for her community. She died at the age of 53, and this has certainly shortened the life of someone who was a great American, a great community volunteer.

Mr. Speaker, she contributed much in her time, much more so than you might expect for someone of such young years. She was an outstanding employee at the Norristown State hospital, an active employee at the U.S. Post Office. But more important than her regular job was what she did in her community.

She was active in her church, she was active in civic organizations, and she helped start many youth programs in her community in Pennsylvania. She was a member of the board of directors and treasurer of the Norristown Jaycettes, and she was active with the Montgomery County Junior Miss Pageant. She was the founder of the Miss Essence of Ebony Pageant.

She was on the board of directors of the YMCA. She was director of the Foster Parents of the Children's Aid Society. She was a member of the Montgomery County Opportunities Industrialization Center as a director, a judge of elections for Norristown's Eighth Ward. She received the award of the Chapel Four Chaplains at Temple

University in Philadelphia, PA. She was a member of Ebenezer A.U.M.P. Church for more than 40 years.

She was a Sunday school teacher, and one of the organizers of the Junior Missionaries. She was a Past Matron of the Eastern Star, and the list goes on, Mr. Speaker.

What she was for us, Frances Ella "Sissy" Joyner was a leader of the church, a leader of the community, an inspirational humanitarian, a role model for her community. She loved children and worked to help the community become better, and I hope that those who will read and hear about Frances Ella Joyner will in fact be inspired by her life's work so that they reach out to the community and show the kind of volunteer spirit that has made America so great.

WELCOMING PRESIDENT KIM YONG-SAM OF KOREA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, as the only Korean-American in Congress, I was proud and honored today to listen to Korean President Kim Yong-Sam address a special joint session of the Congress. His insightful remarks underscored the very historic and close relationship between Korea and the United States. They were certainly well received by the Congress.

President Kim's visit and address to Congress are particularly meaningful and timely considering the fact that tomorrow Presidents Kim and Clinton will dedicate the Korean War Memorial on the Mall of Washington, DC.

This memorial reminds us that the friendship between the United States and Korea is bonded in the blood and sacrifice of each nation. It reminds us of our common quest for liberty and our shared acknowledgment that freedom is not free. While there are short-term differences that may occur between the United States and Korea from time to time, these minor disagreements can never crack the solid, long-term alliance between us. Just ask those Koreans and Americans who are immortalized by the memorial.

As President Kim pointed out in his speech, Korea's economic and democratic achievements are impressive, especially considering they have been made under the constant threat of war from the north. I am proud that the United States has unselfishly encouraged and supported Korea's advancement and this cooperation does warrant special recognition. Thus, as we reflect on today's joint session, tomorrow's dedication of the Korean War Memorial and all the other events associated with this week's state visit by President Kim, I think we all will agree that both the United States and Korea are truly fortunate to have each other as allies and partners.

GOP MEDICARE PLANS THREATEN WOMEN'S HEALTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois [Mrs. COLLINS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the Republican's back-to-the-future approach to legislating, the GOP Medicare-gutting plan will do nothing less than turn the table of progress on women's health in the United States and jeopardize the lives of millions of elderly women in order to foolishly subsidize massive tax cuts for corporate fat cats and rich folks. Sounds a lot like a return to the tired old, worn out, smoke-and-mirrors, trickle down, voodoo economics of a former time—and we all know how well that wreaked havoc on our Federal budget.

What in the world makes our Republican colleagues believe that a \$270 billion cut to the Medicare program is good medicine for our Nation's seniors, particularly our elderly women. Today one-quarter of all women over age 65 live at or near the poverty line. With the GOP cuts estimated to increase out-of-pocket health care expenses \$3,500 annually by the year 2002, these women will be forced to choose between essential health care services and daily food and shelter.

These Gingrich cuts will also disproportionately affect minority women who have lower retirement income, little health care coverage beyond Medicare, and greater risk of acute and chronic illness than white women, and are twice as likely to end up in poverty than their white counterparts.

Is this the contract the Newt Republicans have with their mothers and grandmothers—a promise to gut, slash, and burn the vital health care support that these women have come to trust and rely upon in their golden years? Unfortunately, it is.

Important preventive services, such as biannual mammograms for women over 65 are endangered under the Gingrich Republican budget axe, despite the fact that older women are six times more likely than younger women to develop breast cancer and eventually die from this tragic disease. Additionally, home health care beneficiaries, two-thirds of whom are women, stand to pay a new sick tax with a proposed 20-percent increase in copayments for home care services.

The facts seem pretty clear to me. American women, who live longer than men, contract disabling diseases such as arthritis and osteoporosis to a greater extent than men, and are far less likely than men to have sufficient retirement income or other economic means, will be devastated by the Republican's cruel, short-sighted, and needless attack on Medicare as a means to get tax breaks to the privileged few. Why the GOP is pushing such an agenda remains a frightening mystery to me and my constituents.